



## **Notes**

**Friday, November 18, 2022**

**11:00am – 3:00pm**

**Virtual via Zoom**

## **Attendees**

### **Task Force Executive Committee**

Mike Hamman, State Engineer, Office of State Engineer

Hannah Riseley-White, Deputy Director, Interstate Stream Commission

Rebecca Roose, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration, NM Environment Department

Marquita Russel, CEO, NM Finance Authority

### **Task Force Members**

AJ Forte, Executive Director, NM Municipal League (not present)

Aron Balok, Water Resource Specialist, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District (not present)

Aaron Chavez, Executive Director, San Juan Water Commission (not present)

Debbie Romero, Cabinet Secretary, NM Dept. of Finance & Administration (not present)

Dr. Ladona Clayton, Executive Director, Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy

Dr. Nelia Dunbar, NM Tech Professor, Leap Ahead Analysis

Elizabeth Anderson, Chief Planning Officer, ABCWUA

Jennifer Bradfute, Senior Counsel, Marathon Oil Company

Joy Esparsen, Deputy Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Counties

Kyle Harwood, Water Rights Attorney, Santa Fe

Norm Gaume, President, MRG Water Advocates

Patrick McCarthy, Water Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation

Paul Tashjian, Associate Director of Freshwater Conservation, Audubon

Paula Garcia, Executive Director, NM Acequia Association

Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director, SWNMCOG; Water Trust Board

Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Environmental Biologist, Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environment & Natural Resources

Todd Leahy, Tribal Liaison, NM Energy Minerals & Natural Resources; proxy for Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst (not present)

Lt. Governor Carleton Bowekaty, Zuni Pueblo

Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, NM Indian Affairs Dept.

Laurie Weahkee Proxy

Bill Conner, NM Rural Water Association (not present)

Ralph Vigil, President, NM Acequia Commission (not present)

Michael Sloane, Director, Department of Game and Fish Director (not present)

Daryl Vigil, Water Administrator, Jicarilla Apache Nation (not present)  
Dr. Phil King, Retired NMSU Professor and Consultant to EBID  
Kirk Patten, Chief of Fisheries, Dept of Game and Fish  
Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary of NM Department of Agriculture (not present)

### **Others**

Danielle Gonzales, Executive Director, NM First  
Lynne Canning, Task Force Design and Facilitation, NM First  
Valerie Rangel, Civic Engagement & Policy Manager Assistant, NM First  
Adrian Oglesby, Executive Director, Utton Center  
John Fleck, Utton Center  
Lauren Rust (recorder)

Julie Maitland, Secretary of NM Department of Agriculture  
Abigail Tiarks; Proxy  
John Longworth  
Judy Calman; Proxy

### **Agenda**

- Welcome & Overview
- Intro to Group Discussion on Final Report & Voting
- Utton Center overview of changes & Group Discussion
- Vote on Final Report
- Feedback on Draft Recc Table- Discuss Short-Medium-Long Term Priorities for the task force recommendations
- Complete Evaluation & Break
- Debrief of Process
- Next Steps & Legislative Process

### **Welcome remarks**

Executive Perspective:

- A briefing on the 50-year Water Plan was given to the governor's staff
- The 50-year Water Plan is being embraced and receiving tremendous interest as well as generating curiosity about what is yet to come from the Task Force.
- A meeting to discuss policy recommendations with members of the Task Force, executive committee, the governor's key staff and a direct briefing with the governor will be forthcoming

### **Task Force Roles Moving Forward**

- All Task Force Members:
  - Engage legislators, community members, advocates, etc., on the Task Force's focus areas for the 2023 legislative session.
  - Participate in periodic Task Force Huddles during the 2023 session.

- State Agency Reps:
  - Items above.
  - Briefings for Governor and her staff.
  - Build Executive Budget Recommendation with DFA.
- New Mexico First:
  - Distribute report to listserv and media
  - Share report on social media channels
  - Direct public and media requests to taskforce spokespeople
- Utton Center:
  - Written synthesis and summaries of Task Force report and recommendations
  - Possible research tasks through the 2023 session (if resources allow)
- Thornburg Foundation:
  - Coordinate and convene outreach activities, workshops, etc., related to Task Force recommendations

### **Comments and questions on the role of Ambassador by Task Force members**

- Drafting legislation to implement task force recommendations seems very important but is not on the list of roles.
- What is the right sequencing of implementation for the recommendations?
- Will the Governor adopt the WPITF recommendations as priorities for her office's budget and administration?
- To what extent will the Legislature and Executive develop a unified approach?
- Whose sequencing and priorities are reflected and endorsed in the tables?
- Will the task force coordinate and track activity on the recommendations?
- What are the responsibilities of "ambassadors" in supporting the recommendations?
- Will the executive committee prepare a straw man for first things first?
- What do we need from the 2023 Legislature to initiate the pivot toward resilient adaptation, and lay the foundation for subsequent years?
- What is your vision for task force support and follow through?
- Comment (both approaches are needed):
  - Atomized approach: WTF members representing their regions and focus on their existing priorities
  - Unified approach: Ambassadors are asked to support all recommendations that were approved by consensus/strong majority
- The sequencing and phasing become important here. We are not prioritizing recommendations. We are offering a full slate.

### **Utton overview of changes to Final Report:**

- (On-screen) Redlined version showing major changes made to the report with verbal explanations provided by Utton
- Writer expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work through this process with 30 collaborators. Remarkable experience to synthesize wisdom and expertise of this group.
- Point of report was to capture and reflect the voices of the Task Force
- Final design will be added by the graphic illustrator

The Task Force was given time during the meeting to read through the report then have a facilitated conversation for each member to provide feedback on the content of the report rather than typographical/formatting edits. The following notes were captured and reflect suggested changes. Only changes that were voted on and reached consensus approval will be included in the final report.

### **Group Discussion on Final Report**

Facilitator: Does the report conceptually capture the substance of the process and the recommendations? If no, why not?

Comment:

- On “community capacity” section, suggestion to re-order putting things in a logical order (climate change leads to fires). Mega fires is specific, change to large fire.
- Access to drinking water (process change) and note that the full recommendation is in the appendices
- Tribal governments important to this discussion
- Clarification of the voting process needed
- Charter remains unchanged as voted upon by the TF
- The emphasis of the report seems to be on small communities. There is a need for recognition of large municipalities which are not taking things for granted.
- Define the term “equity”
- Proposed definitions by the US Water Alliance and the 1/21/21 White House executive order on advancing racial equity.
- Water equity refers to access to safe and clean water for all community needs, consideration of the unique challenges of low-income communities and racial minorities, and recognition of the historic rights and uses of Indigenous and acequias in New Mexico.
- Cost associated in recommendations and in the table (are we asking for the right amounts?)
- Funding amounts that have been voted on by consensus will be included in the report.
- Over emphasis in protecting agriculture. Changes to water efficiencies and balance of consumption include Ag.
- WG3 added recommendations that went into a “bike-rack” —it would be good to incorporate them into the appendices.
- Does the water infrastructure program (WIPA) apply to rural systems and it does address equity?
- There are many details to be figured out related to creating WIPA. Among those details to be figured out is how eligibility will be defined.
- Acequias have the same problems as all municipalities.
- How will infrastructure be distributed (capital outlay)?
- Watershed restoration needs to include green infrastructure.
- Disaster response and hazard mitigation language could have been stronger.
- Need more “bleakness” and uncertainty of the future of water resources. We don’t catch the bleakness of what we are facing as what is reflected in the Leap Ahead analysis. People are thinking we are going from old hydrology to new hydrology, and this is what we must adapt to. That’s not the case. Our water supply is continuing to degrade.
- Insert concept of “accountability” —not captured in the report.
- Need for clarification on the voting process and definition of consensus.
- What are the measures of success for the Task Force’s recommendations?

- Suggested language: “Many of the recommendations focus on strategies that involve working with natural systems (such as natural and green infrastructure) to build New Mexico's water resilience and provide communities with equitable and sustainable access to water resources. Strategies that utilize natural and green infrastructure are well positioned to access federal funding”.
- Definition: “Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. Green infrastructure incorporates both the natural environment and engineered systems to provide clean water, conserve ecosystem values and functions, and provide a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife.”
- Suggest additional bullet in Lack of Capacity section, add something about increase the oversight of the funds. Highlight the coordination of “navigator” this is critical to help communities across the state in accessing funds for critical water projects and to oversee these investments and additional investments needed to oversee the use of capital outlay projects.
- Community needs to know how and where to access dollars. There needs to be a single point of contact to inform about funding.
- All Pueblos and tribal nations were needed as participants in the Task Force and not just 3 entities for tribal representation. Native voices are underrepresented.
- There were some recommendations that will not be included in the report.
- Navajo Nation, which is a significant population that is impacted by water issues, was missing from the conversation and the report. The tribal voice in discussions is important.
- There should be language added to the conclusion of the report acknowledging the importance of task force existing rather than the future of the task force. Any disagreement from WTF members? General agreement among the group.

### **Discussion of Recommendation Table & Next Steps:**

#### Comments:

- Felt that this meeting would have been better in-person versus zoom. Difficult to have different discussions in workgroups and then meet with larger group on different topics.
- How do we keep the activity and relationships on-going discussion.
- Ongoing participation of the task force in tracking and accounting for progress is important.
- More clarity on the relationship between the 50yr plan and the TF final report is needed.
- Continued coordination with task force and the executive committee is needed to finalize the Table.
- Input from the governor after she reviews it.
- Important we make a coordinated and concerted push for transformative change during this short window of opportunity when we have both strong water leadership and unprecedented levels of federal funding for water infrastructure.
- Suggestion: Each member lists the top three to five recommendations they feel should be passed during the 2023 legislative session.
- In past years, having a vote of confidence from industry has really helped us out.
- When will the Task Force report be released, publicly? (unknown at this time)
- There is a need for a public legislative strategy so the public can follow bills and why different groups are advocating different themes and recs.
- It makes sense to have huddles to understand the priorities and decide them.

- The agencies themselves should assert their needs and their statuses and reason for their perspective. This would be helpful for people outside of the circle to understand what the processes/factors are.
- There are several bills within the water scope, that have a life of their own. Does that initiative have a constituency that needs to be activated? Or is it something that Task Force members need to explain and advocate for?
- Agencies need to be more assertive in what they need and don't need, get a constituency behind it. Level of analysis of what is practical/impractical this session is needed in considering the sequencing of strategies and recommendations.
- Helpful to reach out to industry coalitions, groups, and entities that have a broad lobbying say, to talk about water initiatives. Businesses engage lobbyists, reach out to them, that's a great opportunity and resource to make a big impact.

### **Closing remarks & Next Steps**

A meeting will be scheduled during the first week of December to discuss the legislative process of engagement in more detail with task force.

Look for an email from NM First with the following:

- Link to the poll for voting on approval of the final report
- Link to complete an evaluation,
- Rebecca's instructions on providing comments and changes to the Table of Recommendations
- Results of the vote to approve the final report
- Final Report with changes from 11/18/22 meeting

Meeting End: 3:15 p.m.